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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/ Thailand

SUBJECT Inspection of Soviet Made Sewing Machine

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examination of a Soviet sewing machine obtained by purchase in Thailand during June, 1950, at a cost of 1700 ticals (approximately \$79.50 US). This machine, which bears the designation 1-A, was apparently from the first lot believed to contain 400 sewing machines understood to have been forwarded by the Soviet Ministry of Machinery and Appliances, Podolsk, USSR, Workshop of Kalinin, to the Trade Attache of the USSR in Thailand.

1. The examination of this sewing machine has revealed the following:

- a. The machine is identical with the USA Singer-type 15-88, which provides for $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam thickness.
- b. There is no provision for a motor drive. The machine is treadle operated and complete with stand and woodwork.
- c. There is no evidence of advantageous substitution of metals in the components of this machine as contrasted with US usage. It is noted, however, that plated parts are coated with nickel instead of chromium as is USA practice.
- d. No attachments were furnished with the machine, but each comes equipped with operating instructions.

2. The evaluation of this sewing machine is as follows:

- a. It closely simulates the USA Singer 15-88, the parts being to all intents interchangeable.
- b. The workmanship is of fair quality as compared with USA Singer standards, and the range of tolerances between moving parts is comparable to Singer design.

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- c. [REDACTED] the machine was made with Singer tools which were removed from the Singer Manufacturing Company Plant at Wittenberge, Germany, after the conclusion of World War II. It appears also that some of the parts were made at the Wittenberge Plant.
- d. The quality of the heat treatment appears to be comparable with US practice.

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- e. It cannot be positively determined that the machine is mass produced, but there can be no question because of its close conformity to Singer dimensions but that the machine was produced with Singer tools to Singer standard gauging dimensions.
- f. The operating speed is identical with the comparable US made machine.
- g. It is impossible to determine whether or not the needles are of USSR manufacture. It is noted, however, that they are inferior to American needles.
- h. The machine undersells the comparable US product in Thailand by the ratio of approximately US \$79.50 to US \$106.20.
- i. There is no definite information concerning USSR maintenance service facilities for this machine in Thailand, but it is presumed that the dealers must do the servicing.
- j. The year in which the machine was made could not be positively determined. It is apparent, however, that the fabrication must have been accomplished since World War II because the tools with which it was produced were not removed from the Nalmaschinen, A G, at Wittenberge, Germany, before that time.

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